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RUEHWH/WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS PRIORITY
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 0005
RUEHVT/AMEMBASSY VALLETTA PRIORITY
RUEHROV/AMEMBASSY VATICAN PRIORITY 0160
RUCOWCV/CCGDSEVEN MIAMI FL PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
RUEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUCOGCA/COMNAVBASE GUANTANAMO BAY CU PRIORITY
RMFISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY
RMFISS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 HAVANA 000706

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CCA
STATE FOR DRL CNEWLING

EO 12958 DECL: 10/23/2019
TAGS PREL, PHUM, PGOV, CU

SUBJECT: FEISTY LITTLE MISSIONS DENT CUBA'S RECORD OF
BULLYING OTHERS TO SILENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: A. HAVANA 619 (RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR) B. HAVANA 592 (GOC SIGNALS "READINESS TO MOVE FORWARD") C. VATICAN 117 ("VATICAN
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Classified By: Poloff Joaquin F. Monserrate for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) Summary. The Cuban Government has been able to stonewall its independent civil society from foreign visitors who have, for the large part
THE "BEST-FRIENDS-FOREVER" APPROACH: DO, SAY NOTHING

12. (C) Practitioners of this approach to Cuba include most countries, including all Latin Americans and Africans, Russians and Chinese, and me

13. (C) The Swiss Human Rights Special Envoy Rudolf Knoblauch met with his Cuban counterparts on November 12, government-organized groups (GONG

14. (C) Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith met with Cuba's Vice President Jose Ramon Machado and Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez on Nov
THE "KEEP-IT-PRIVATE" APPROACH: SAY NOTHING PUBLICLY

15. (C) It is hard to gauge how many countries really bring up
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the tough subjects when they meet in private with the Cubans, but many claim to do so. Although nothing of substance stops visitors from engaging

16. (C) The Canadians also failed to meet with the independent civil society or make public pronouncements after the visit of Minister Kent. Th

17. (C) In his meetings with Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez, Kent reportedly asked also about the visit of the Special Rapporteur, but
THE "WE-RESPECTFULLY-DISAGREE" APPROACH: GOING PUBLIC

18. (C) The missions that air their concerns publicly are in the minority. Although the official press ignores it, the GOC frowns upon these ut

19. (C) The EU Commission in Havana sits snuggly in the "Best-Friends-Forever" camp. Their functionaries share with us their reproach of the "r

10. (C) On an early November visit to Cuba, the Belgian Karel de Gucht put aside Cuban equivocations and declared that "there is a set of func

11. (C) The Vatican's Social Communications Council President Archbishop Claudio Cello, a grizzled veteran of China-Vatican negotiations, also
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singled out Cuba's blogger community for praise, something the GOC "didn't like at all," according to Holy See diplomats in Havana (leading Cel

THE "TAKE-YOUR-VISIT-AND-SHOVE-IT" APPROACH: LITTLE LOST

12. (C) Some countries refuse to let the GOC dictate to them when it comes to visitors. Although they will accommodate GOC petulance by hostir

13. (C) In November, the Ambassador for the Order of Malta (a Catholic church NGO given diplomatic status by the GOC) took the "take-it-and-sit

14. (C) COMMENT. The Cuba overwhelming majority of the 100 foreign missions in Havana do not face a human rights dilemma in their dealings wit